Request for Comments
North Carolina Statewide Health information Exchange Services

From: Joe Freddoso [mailto:jfreddoso@mcnc.org]
Sent: Saturday, March 19, 2011 9:50 PM
To: Fields, Aleathia; Cline, Steve
Subject: Re: FW: NCHIE Request for Comments on Statewide HIE Requirements

Hi Aleathia,

Here are my comments. Thanks so much for the opportunity.

Joe

ITS and MCNC

MCNC has partnered with the State of North Carolina Office of Information Technology Services (ITS) and the State of North Carolina Chief Information Officer to begin the process of connecting North Carolina County Public Health Agencies, Public free health care clinics and non-profit and university hospitals to the NCREN and ITS backbone networks. These connections are funding through the North Carolina Telehealth Network Initiative overseen by the Carbarrus Health Alliance. MCNC and ITS began connecting these facilities to these backbone networks in January 2011. About a third of these facilities will be connected to the NCREN or ITS backbones by the end of the calendar year.

Connecting these public health and healthcare institutions to these statewide backbones will provide the high availability, low latency broadband service that allows implementation of Healthcare Information Exchange and Telehealth applications that will benefit all North Carolina Citizens. With this in mind, ITS and MCNC will work closely with the North Carolina HIE team to ensure that these existing backbone networks and the existing connections they provide to public health facilities, free clinics, hospitals and existing DHHS data repositories are utilized to their maximum extent in the HIE implementation process.

MCNC BTOP Awards

In addition, MCNC has received a private investment of $41M (including $8M from its own endowment) that has attracted $104M in Federal Broadband Technology Opportunities (BTOP) Funds. With this $145M in funding, MCNC is overseeing the building and acquisition of approximately 3000 miles of fiber optic, broadband infrastructure in 79 counties in mainly rural North Carolina. This infrastructure is required to be open interconnect. This means that any private sector last mile or wholesale telecommunications or cable company, any public entity that provides broadband for a public sector service or to citizens within its jurisdiction should be allowed to interconnect with the BTOP funded fiber, provided the entity meets the terms and conditions set forth in MCNC's BTOP agreement.

MCNC will complete construction of this fiber infrastructure in late spring 2013 and is pleased to enter into discussions with the HIE taskforce regarding how this fiber optic infrastructure can be leveraged to implement North Carolina's HIE. North Carolina will have an unprecedented fiber plant built for the public good as a result of the BTOP award. This fiber plant, managed by a non-profit, MCNC, whose mission includes providing technology services to Community Anchor Institutions while maximizing private sector opportunities for the industry leading group of telephone and cable companies that operate in North Carolina.